

# SOVEREIGN GRACE CHURCH

**May 1st, 2016**

“...my GOD shall supply  
all your need according  
to his riches in glory by  
CHRIST JESUS.”

PHILIPPIANS 4:19

JOSEPH D. MURPHY, PASTOR

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## Schedule of Services

Sunday School            10:00 am

Sunday Worship        11:00 am

Wednesday Worship 7:00 pm

### Nursery

*Nursery available for 4 years old and younger*

**Today we will have a fellowship luncheon together immediately following the Sunday Worship service**

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“What is the gospel? In one word it is CHRIST. *WHO HE IS, WHAT HE DID, and WHAT HE CONTINUES TO DO FOR HIS PEOPLE*, according to the scriptures.”

*(1 CORINTHIANS 15:1-4, ROMANS 8:34, 1 PETER 1:5)*

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## WHAT DO WE BELIEVE?

To answer this question properly, much needs to be said by way of introduction. However, for the sake of time, allow us to outline the difference as simply as we can. We will only make three brief introductory points.

**First**, what we believe is rooted in **WHO we believe**. This is not an intellectual or academic exercise. It is a living relationship with Jesus, THE Christ, the Lord of glory, our Savior. That is the reason we refuse to allow our desire to be a witness for Him to be reduced to a debate.

**Second**, the differences in what we believe are not a matter of theological emphases. Denominations have been created over one doctrine or tradition being emphasized over another. The difference in what we believe and what most believe is the difference in eternal life and eternal death.

**Third**, we understand, from personal experience, that the only way to savingly see the difference between the truth and a lie is by the free and sovereign grace of God. He is the only one that can make us to differ from another. *(1 CORINTHIANS 4:7)*

## SO, *WHAT ARE THE DIFFERENCES?*

1. *We do not believe God loves everybody.* We believe the love of God is only to be found in Christ, and that was determined by God before the world began. (EPHESIANS 1:4)

2. *We do not believe Christ died for everybody.* He laid down His life for the sheep not the goats. It is not for us to try to figure out which one men are. His sheep will hear His voice and they will follow Him. Christ purposed to save His elect, and He fulfilled all He came to do. (JOHN 10:26-27; ISAIAH 42:1-4)

3. *We do not believe God, in any way, wills all men to be saved.* God is God. His will is always accomplished. If He willed all men to be saved then all men would be saved. The purpose of God according to election will stand (ROMANS 9:11, 8:28)

4. *We do not believe man has a “free will”.* Man's will is in bondage to his sinful nature. It is not free to choose Christ. Man left to himself is unable to believe. God must make him willing through the miracle of the new birth. (JOHN 3:3)

5. *We do not believe the gospel is an “offer” of salvation to be accepted by man.* The gospel is the declaration of the “good news” that Christ has DONE everything necessary to secure the salvation of His people. God is not waiting for us to DO something to make what Christ did work for us. (2 TIMOTHY 1:9), (“It is finished!”- JOHN 19:30). This message of grace is irresistible to the elect.

6. *We do not believe our faith is the effectual cause of our salvation.* The Faith OF Christ is the only faith that makes us accepted before a holy God. (GALATIANS 2:16) Our faith is a gift of God given **IN** salvation, not **FOR** salvation. (EPHESIANS 2:8-9)

7. *We do not believe the Bible is a rule book for Christian living.* We believe it is in its entirety a revelation of the glorious person and accomplished work of the Lord Jesus Christ. He Himself is our rule of life. (LUKE 24:44-45)

8. *In short, we believe that “salvation is of the Lord”.* He gets all the glory for saving a dead dog sinner such as I. He is the alpha and the omega, the beginning and the end. God, our Heavenly Father, purposed the salvation of His chosen people in the covenant of grace before the world began. Christ, the Son of God, accomplished everything necessary for Righteousness and Justice on behalf of those chosen. The Holy Spirit, at the appointed time, gives the elect ears to hear and hearts to believe. He then keeps them in Christ until their sojourn in this world is over. At that time, they will see Christ in all His glory and be made like Him. (JONAH 2:9)

We know there are some who will want to argue these points with verses of Scripture they think refute what we believe. Remember the first point in the introduction. We will not shame Christ by making Him the subject of a debate. “I know WHOM I have believed, and am persuaded that HE is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day” (2 TIMOTHY 1:12) If you have an interest in this gospel we would encourage you to listen to the gospel preached by a faithful gospel preacher. The Lord uses the preaching of Christ crucified to save them which believe. Faith comes by hearing and hearing by the word of God.

**GREG ELMQUIST**

## IF WE DENY

*If we deny* that man is dead in sin; that he is nothing, has nothing and can do nothing to merit salvation then we make '*man true and God a liar*'!

*If we deny* God's eternal and unconditional election of a people unto salvation; make salvation to be by man's choice and will, instead of God's choice, will and purpose; then we exalt man's will above God's, dethrone the Almighty and set man up in His place!

*If we deny* the particular and effectual redemption of the elect by the blood of Christ; then we have no gospel to preach, only an atonement that does not atone, a redemption that does not redeem, and a saviour that cannot save; we make a mockery of the suffering and death of the Son of God and count the blood of the covenant an unholy (common) thing!

*If we deny* the invincible and essential work of God the Holy Spirit; in regeneration and the new birth then we must deny that 'that which is born of the flesh is flesh,' and say, 'that which is born of the flesh is spirit'! Then we make Him to be less than man and emphatically deny that salvation is of the Lord, Who only can give life to the dead!

*If we deny* the preservation and perseverance of the saints; then we openly declare that there is a power greater than God, one who can frustrate His purpose and pluck the sheep out of the Father's hand, contrary to the words of the Lord Jesus.

*If we deny Him*, He also will deny us. (2 TIMOTHY 2:12)

**CHARLES PENNINGTON**

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"Beloved, our God has done more than take away your sins;  
HE has made you HIS righteousness in CHRIST."

(GENESIS 3:21, ISAIAH 40:1-2, 2 CORINTHIANS 5:21)

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## OUR GOD REIGNETH

Isn't it remarkable? All of our salvation, the very beginning of it, the right now of it, and it's ultimate fulfillment in glory has everything to do with this—"OUR GOD REIGNETH!" HE reigns over *every event* and *every detail* of our lives—what a blessing to be ever taught by HIS grace, to have (truly and in sincerity) no regrets. (JEREMIAH 29:11, JEREMIAH 31:3)

Beloved, wouldn't we be saying, if left to ourselves to persist in our regret, that things would be better if we were in control? GOD forbid! PRAISE the LORD! Though we mourn over our sin, He ever makes us to know, through all the events of our lives, to be content in resting and rejoicing in this—*all things work together for our good, the good of ALL HIS beloved people in and by CHRIST*. Amen! (ROMANS 8:28, REVELATION 19:6)

**PASTOR**